

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 08915 301811Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 HEW-04 SS-15 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 /070 W
-----014826 301818Z /50
O 301903Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0517
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 08915

FOR ILO

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, MX
SUBJECT: SECRETARY OF LABOR OJEDA PAULLADA ON THE ILO

REF: (A) STATE 127537, (B) STATE 135160, (C) MEXICO 8652

1. OJEDA PAULLADA CALLED THE LABOR ATTACHE LATE ON THE EVENING OF MAY 29 AND ASKED THAT HE COME BY HIS OFFICE EARLY MAY 30 TO "TALK PRIVATELY." WHEN THE LABATT ARRIVED AT 9:30, OJEDA USHERED HIM TO PRIVATE CHAMBER, APOLOGIZED FOR THE LATE NIGHT CALL BUT INDICATED HE HAD BEEN PRE-OCCUPIED BY THE U.S. CONCERN OVER "ENLARGING THE ILO GOVERNING BODY" (AS OUTLINED IN PARA (G) OF REFTEL A). HE SAID HE HAS REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN ILO CONTINGENT IN GENEVA THAT A COMPROMISE POSITION HAS BEEN WORKED OUT "AMONG IMEC, THE GROUP OF 77 AND THE SOCIALIST FORCES, WHICH WILL ENLARGE AND CHANGE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GOVERNING BODY." HE SAID THAT A "DOCUMENT OUTLINING THESE CHANGES WAS CIRCULATING THERE" AND THAT HE WAS SURE OUR (U.S.) AMBASSADOR HAD A COPY OF THIS, SINCE "HE HAD SPOKEN TO A GROUP WHICH INCLUDED OUR PEOPLE (THE MEXICANS
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 08915 301811Z

THERE)."

2. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "YOU AND I HAVE ALWAYS DEALT (WITH EACH OTHER) HONESTLY AND FRANKLY AND IN A FRIENDLY MANNER. I AM PREPARED TO WORK TOWARD THE END DESCRIBED IN THE PAPER YOU GAVE ME LAST WEEK, WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION OF THE LIMITATIONS YOU EXPRESSED ON THE GOVERNING

BODY. I THINK IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THIS WILL BE ENLARGED. I WOULD NOT WANT TO PUT THE STATEMENT I HAVE JUST MADE IN A TELEX FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, BUT I WILL WORK TOWARD YOUR (U.S.) GOALS OF DUE PROCESS TO ELIMINATE THE LOW POLITICS (POLITICAL TRASH: "POLITIQUERIA") AND DOUBLE STANDARDS BECAUSE THEY ARE JUST GOALS AND I WANT YOU BACK IN (THE U.S. IN THE ILO). WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS JUST HOW STRONGLY YOU (THE U.S.) FEEL THAT THE GOVERNING BODY SHOULD NOT BE ENLARGED--WOULD THIS BE A CONTROLLING FACTOR IN YOUR (U.S.) DECISION TO RETURN?"

3. THE LABATT EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS NO EXPERT ON ILO MATTERS AND SINCE HE IS STATIONED HERE IN MEXICO IS IN A POOR POSITION TO ANSWER THE QUESTION. HE TOLD OJEDA THAT HE HAD REPORTED OJEDA'S PREVIOUS CONVERSATION TO WASHINGTON AND HAD RECEIVED A REPLY ASKING THAT THE LABATT EXPRESS WASHINGTON'S "APPRECIATION (TO OJEDA) AND CONVEY (WASHINGTON'S) BEST WISHES FOR HIS ELECTION AND SUCCESS AS CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN." LABATT THEN SAID THAT SINCE HE HAD INFORMED WASHINGTON ABOUT OJEDA'S STRONG CONCERN OVER THE POSITION IN PARA (G) AND STILL RECEIVED THE ABOVE MESSAGE, OJEDA COULD DRAW HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS. LABATT THEN OFFERED TO TRANSMIT OJEDA'S PRESENT CONCERN AND QUESTIONS TO WASHINGTON. OJEDA COMMENTED THAT THIS WOULD "BE HELPFUL IF I COULD RESOLVE THIS QUESTION IN MY OWN MIND BEFORE I GO TO GENEVA ON SATURDAY. WE SEEM TO BE WORKING GENERALLY TO-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 08915 301811Z

WARD THE SAME END." HE SAID HE WOULD RESPECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY REPLY.

4. COMMENT: WE REALIZE AND HAVE CAUTIONED OJEDA THAT NO ONE CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT WE WILL OR WILL NOT REJOIN THE ILO UNTIL WE HAVE STUDIED THE RESULT OF ILO MEETING IN ITS ENTIRETY. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT OJEDA IS SERIOUS IN HIS CLAIM TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF OUR POSITION WITH THIS SINGLE RESERVATION, AND WANTS TO KNOW THE DEPTH OF OUR OBJECTION TO GB EXPANSION. IT WILL BE HELPFUL IF THE DEPARTMENT CAN GIVE US SOME MEANINGFUL STATEMENT ON THIS, TO PASS ON TO OJEDA BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE JUNE 3. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

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